



#ENDPOVERTY

## GLOBAL EXTREME POVERTY ROSE IN 2020

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN  
OVER 20 YEARS



Sunday, 17 October, 2021

On October 17th, a limited, socially-distanced group gathered at the Poverty and Human Rights stone to mark International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Peter Mc Verry led the occasion with the Lord Mayor representing the city. The address of the Lord Mayor echoed that of President Michael D Higgins, showing how the pandemic has widened the gap between rich and poor people, and significantly challenges the global goal of eliminating world poverty by 2030.



### FOUR TESTIMONIES:

The central part of the event was listening to four testimonies delivered by very brave people who experience struggle, a person in direct provision, a homeless person, a traveller and a person in addiction. Listening to unheard voices was at the heart of the day and the prayer of Joseph Wresinski was read aloud in three languages.

**"WHENEVER MEN AND WOMEN ARE CONDEMNED TO LIVE IN POVERTY HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED. TO COME TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THESE RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED IS OUR SOLEMN DUTY."**

*Joseph Wresinski*



The ceremony was interspersed with songs composed for the occasion by the SAOL Sisters and with poems written during the lockdown by people in poverty. A dramatic presentation highlighted the need to extend equality legislation to protect poor people from socio-economic discrimination. The butterfly as the reminder of change was the logo for the day, and the event closed with a symbolic butterfly gesture by all present. After the absence of a year because of COVID it was great to be able to assemble again in person to honour the struggles of people living in poverty, with a renewed determination to work for a world of justice and dignity.

*"The times talk to us of so much poverty in our world and this is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children. Poverty today is a cry. There are so many poor persons, so many children without an education." Pope Francis*

**Learning to listen and to see as a brother** - Martin Byrne cfc